

Comparison of Old and New RUS High Energy Cost Eligibility Benchmarks

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

<u>Fuel</u>	National annual average household expenditure		Extremely high energy cost benchmark	
	<u>1997 Survey</u>	<u>2001 Survey</u>	<u>2003-2004 Grants</u>	<u>New</u>
Electricity	\$871	\$938	\$2,341	\$2,509
Natural Gas	\$579	\$702	\$1,547	\$1,859
Fuel Oil	\$714	\$737	\$1,870	\$1,882
LPG/Propane	\$500	\$605	\$1,266	\$1,514
Total Household Energy Use	\$1,338	\$1,493	\$3,613	\$4,013

ANNUAL AVERAGE PER UNIT ENERGY COSTS

<u>Fuel (unit cost)</u>	National average unit Cost		Extremely high energy cost benchmark	
	<u>1997 Survey</u>	<u>2001 Survey</u>	<u>2003-2004 Grants</u>	<u>New</u>
Electricity (\$ per kilowatt hour)	\$0.085	\$0.088	\$0.229	\$0.239
Natural Gas (\$ per thousand cubic feet)	\$6.96	\$9.98	\$18.78	\$26.85
Fuel Oil (\$ per gallon)	\$0.96	\$1.24	\$2.62	\$3.35
LPG/Propane (\$ per gallon)	\$1.03	\$1.36	\$2.72	\$3.61
Total Household Energy (\$ per million Btus)	\$13.25	\$16.19	\$36.10	\$43.91

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, Residential Energy Consumption and Expenditure Surveys 1997, 2001. The RUS benchmarks are set at 275 percent of the national average and include adjustments to reflect the uncertainties inherent in EIA's statistical methodology for estimating home energy costs. The benchmarks are set based on the EIA's lower range estimates using the specified EIA methods.